



# EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, VT*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

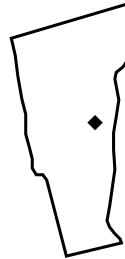
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Situated in the center of Vermont's eastern side, the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Region consists of 27 small towns whose population totals 36,054. Poverty rates in several of the towns are considerably higher than the state average. In recent years, the region's employment base has shifted toward lower paying service sector jobs as a result of a decline in agricultural production and manufacturing.

Despite its large size, the region has limited space for commercial and industrial redevelopment due to infrastructure constraints. The presence of numerous brownfield properties within the region has had a negative impact on the region's tourism industry, which is a large part of the region's economy. The redevelopment of the 84 identified brownfields presents an opportunity to help reverse the region's downward trends by revitalizing communities and creating needed economic opportunities.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Two Rivers-Ottauquechee  
Regional Commission, VT*

**Date of Announcement:**  
April 2001

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets up to eight brownfield sites that will be selected and prioritized with help from community members.

#### Contacts:

Two Rivers-Ottauquechee  
Regional Commission  
(802) 457-3188

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 918-1424

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission plans to return the region's brownfields to active commercial and industrial use. The Pilot will develop a comprehensive brownfield site identification and prioritization process driven by the potential for public benefit. The Pilot plans several outreach activities and will involve community members in its discussions and decision-making activities early in the project. Up to eight sites having the highest economic reuse potential will be selected for Phase I environmental site assessments. Two targeted sites will proceed to Phase II environmental site assessments, and the one with the highest reuse potential will undergo a Phase III environmental site assessment. The Pilot plans to develop cost-effective solutions, financing strategies, and implementation measures that create the necessary conditions for reuse.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Developing an inventory and prioritizing potential brownfield sites;
- Involving the community in brownfields redevelopment planning; and
- Conducting Phase I, II, and III environmental site assessments.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*